

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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SUBJECT: GOI POLICY ON PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCES IN INDIA

REF: STATE 19880? OF OCTOBER 6,1973

1. THE GOI HAS MADE A FIRM DECISION IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS
THAT HENCEFORTH IT WILL NOT ALLOW ATTENDANCE AT ANY GENERAL
INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS OR CONFERENCES IN INDIA BY REPRESENTATIVES
FROM TAIWAN, ISRAEL, SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA AND PORTUGAL.
THE TRIGGER FOR THIS DECISION WAS THE 26TH MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES WHICH WAS
TO HAVE BROUGHT 1,500 SCIENTISTS TO NEW DELHI LATE THIS
YEAR. A CONFERENCE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE INTERNATIONAL
DAIRY FEFERATION IN 1974 WILL ALSO BE AFFECTED.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR FOR COORDINATION, SA'AD HASHMI,
TOLD THE POL COUNSELOR TODAY THAT THE PROBLEM HAD STARTED TO
COME TO A HEAD LAST YEAR OVER THE INTERNATIONAL COTTON
ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NEW DELHI WHICH
ULTIMATELY WAS CANCELED OVER THE ISSUE OF ISRAELI, PORTUGUESE
AND TAIWANESE ATTENDANCE (REFTEL). HASHMI ACKNOWLEDGED FRANKLY
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THAT ARAB AND AFRICAN PRESSURE WAS RESPONSIBLE AND THAT THE

GOVERNMENT HAD SIMPLY DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE LOGIC OF ITS POSITION AND WARN ALL PROSPECTIVE CONVENERS OF INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES WOULD NOT BE GIVEN VISAS. HASHMI EMPHASIZED THIS POLICY DID NOT RPT NOT APPLY TO CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS HELD DIRECTLY UNDER UN AUSPICES OR OF UN CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS. IT DOES, HOWEVER, APPLY TO GROUPS LIKE THE PHYSIOLOGISTS WHICH, WHILE AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS, ARE NOT THEMSELVES UN AGENCIES.

3. HASHMI SAID THE GOI RECOGNIZED ITS POLICY WOULD RESULT IN ITS LOSING A NUMBER OF MAJOR CONFERENCES WHICH COULD BRING IN SUBSTANTIAL REVENUES, AS WELL AS WORKING TO THE DISADVANTAGE ON INDIAN SCHOLARS, SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICIANS WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A MAJOR CONFERENCE HELD IN INDIA BUT WHO WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IN GOING ABROAD.
SCHNEIDER

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